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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

TOPIC German Border Police

25X1 EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT Prior to the fall of 1950

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7 February 1951

25X1 REFERENCES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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Organization.

1. The build-up of the Grenzpolizei was practically completed in the fall of 1950. The superior headquarters of all Grenzpolizei units was the Hauptabteilung Grenzpolizei (Border Police Department) of the Hauptverwaltung Deutsche Volkspolizei (Main Administration of German Volkspolizei) (HVDVP). The Hauptabteilung Grenzpolizei was organized into geographic sections which had charge of the following Grenzbereiche (border divisions):
 - a. Grenze Nord, extending from the Stettiner Haff to the zonal border at Travemuende, controlled by units subordinate to the Mecklenburg Landespolizeibehoerde in Schwerin.
 - b. Grenze West, following the zonal border, controlled by units subordinate to the Landespolizeibehoerden in Schwerin, Mecklenburg; Halle, Saxony-Anhalt; and Weimar, Thuringia.
 - c. Grenze Ost, following the Polish and Czechoslovakian border, controlled by units subordinate to the Landespolizeibehoerde in Dresden, Saxony; and Potsdam, Brandenburg.
 - d. Ring um Berlin, along the perimeter of the city of Gross-Berlin, controlled by units which are believed to be directly subordinate to the Hauptabteilung Grenzpolizei of the HVDVP.
 - e. Special units with the Wismut Corporation, along the perimeter of the restricted area of the Wismut Corporation, controlled by units whose subordination is unknown.

Sometimes Grenzbereitschaften control border areas which are intersected by Soviet Zone Land boundaries. The subordination of those units depends on the location of the unit headquarters. Such units are the Grenzbereitschaft in Eldena whose headquarters is located in Land Mecklenburg, but whose area includes the western tip of Land Brandenburg, west-north-west of Wittenberge; the Grenzbereitschaft in Gefell, whose headquarters is located in Land Thuringia, but whose area includes the southwestern corner

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of Land Saxony, just south of Plauen; and the Grenzbereitschaft in Bruessow, whose headquarters is located in Land Brandenburg, but whose area includes the southeastern tip of Land Mecklenburg, namely Kreis Randow.

2. The principal tactical unit of the Grenzpolizei is the Grenzbereitschaft with an authorized strength of about 600 police. The actual strength of a Grenzbereitschaft may be either below or above the authorized strength, depending on the size of the border area to be controlled. A Grenzbereitschaft is organized into the Grenzbereitschaft headquarters, Grenzkommandanturen, and Grenzkommandos. The Grenzbereitschaft headquarters consists of the PK (Politik-Kultur) Section, the Personnel Section, the Administrative Section, the Training Section, and the Criminal Section. A Grenzkommandantur consists of three to six Kommandos and/or Kontrollpassierpunkte (border checkpoints) (KPP), depending on the size of the border sector. The Grenzkommandanturen of the Ring um Berlin have an additional number of Bahnhofskommandos (details at railroad stations). A Grenzkommando has an average strength of 30 police. The Grenzkommando, which is the smallest basic unit employed in border guard duty, is, in most cases, subdivided into three Wachdrittel (guard thirds) which are rotated with each other, the first being on guard duty, the second on alert, and the third off duty or engaged in political or military training. Equivalent to the Grenzkommandos are the Interzonenkontrollpunkte (interzonal border checkpoints) and the Kontrollpassierpunkte (train checkpoints).

Grenzpolizei Schools.

3. The Grenzpolizei school in Aschersleben was organized into four Kommandos with a total of 900 police. The police were equipped with small arms and were trained in observation duty. VP Oberst Quenzel, (fnu), was school commandant and VP Rat Jahns, (fnu), PK Chef.
4. The Grenzpolizei school in Stintenburg was located in the Castle of Stintenburg, Kreis Hagenow, and had a strength of about 70 police. The school trained police recruits for border duty along Grenze Nord.

Grenzbereitschaften of Grenze West.

5. The Grenzbereitschaft in Schoenberg, Mecklenburg, was commanded by VP Oberst Lange, (fnu), and consisted of four Kommandanturen, I in Schlagsdorf, II in Herrnburg, III in Dassow, and IV whose location was unknown.
6. Another Grenzbereitschaft was located in Gadebusch or Wittenburg, Mecklenburg. (1) A third Grenzbereitschaft was located in Eldena, Mecklenburg.
7. The Grenzbereitschaft in Salzwedel, Saxony-Anhalt, was commanded by VP Kommandeur Matthesius, (fnu), and consisted of three Grenzkommandanturen, I in Arndsee, II in Salzwedel with an Interzonenkommando in Klein Grabenstedt, and III in Dähre. VP Kommandeur Fiedler, (fnu), was PK Chef of the Grenzbereitschaft.
8. The Grenzbereitschaft in Gardelogen, Saxony-Anhalt, was commanded by VP Kommandeur Quenzel, (fnu). VP Oberkommissar Krupik, (fnu), was PK Chef. Kommandantur I of the Grenzbereitschaft was located in Oebisfelde.

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9. The Grenzbereitschaft in Osterwieck, Saxony-Anhalt, had its Kommandantur I in Bedeleben, and Kommandantur II in Hoetensleben.
10. The 1st Grenzbereitschaft of Land Thuringia was commanded by VP Oberrat Ellenberger, (fnu). VP Rat Wroblewski, (fnu), was PK Chef. The Grenzbereitschaft had its headquarters in Ellrich and had three Kommandanturen, I in Budersleben, II in Beneckenstein, and III in Norbis.
11. The headquarters of the 2nd and 3rd Grenzbereitschaften of Land Thuringia were located in Muhlra and Lornbach respectively.
12. The 4th Grenzbereitschaft of Land Thuringia was commanded by VP Oberrat Grueble, (fnu). VP Oberrat Weiss, (fnu), was PK Chef. The Grenzbereitschaft had its headquarters in Meiningen and had four Kommandanturen, I in Meiningen, II in Roemhild, III in Hildburghausen, and IV in Heldburg. Kommandantur IV formerly belonged to the Grenzbereitschaft in Hildburghausen. After the dissolution of that Grenzbereitschaft the Kommandantur was re-assigned to the Grenzbereitschaft in Meiningen.
13. The 5th Grenzbereitschaft of Land Thuringia was located in Koeppeisdorf. The 6th Grenzbereitschaft of Land Thuringia was commanded by VP Kommandeur Wagner, (fnu). The unit had its headquarters in Gefell and consisted of three Kommandanturen, I in Jurbach, II in Hirschberg, and III in Gross Zosern.
14. The 7th Grenzlehrbereitschaft (training unit) of Land Thuringia in Sondershausen was commanded by VP Oberrat Schamer, (fnu), and numbered about 350 men. The unit was equipped with small arms and was engaged in basic training of border police recruits, who were subsequently reassigned to Grenzbereitschaften.

Grenzbereitschaften of Grenze Ost.

15. The 1st Grenzbereitschaft of Land Brandenburg was commanded by VP Oberrat Schmidt, (fnu). VP Kommissar Barock, (fnu), was PK Chef. The unit had its headquarters in Frankfurt/Oder and was organized and disposed as follows:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Kommandantur I</u>	Forst, Lusatia
Kommando I/1	Gross Gastrose
Kommando I/2	Pusak
Kommando I/3	Zeltz near Forst
<u>Kommandantur II</u>	Fuerstentum/Oder
Kommando II/1	Guben
Kommando II/2	Ratzdorf
Kommando II/3	Kunitzlose
<u>Kommandantur III</u>	Letschin
Kommando III/1	Frankfurt/Oder
Kommando III/2	Netzein
Kommando III/3	Quastrin/Kietz
Kommando III/4	Gross Leuendorf
Kommando III/5	Kienitz.

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16. The 2nd Grenzbereitschaft of Land Brandenburg was commanded by VP Oberrat Maschlanka, (fnu). VP Rat Mote, (fnu), was PK Chief. The unit numbered about 460 police. It had its headquarters in Bruessow and was organized and disposed as follows:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Kommandantur I</u>	Penkun, Kreis Randow
Kommando I/1	Schwedt
Kommando I/2	Oderberg
<u>Kommandantur II</u>	Torgelow
Kommando II/1	<u>Hintersee</u>
Kommando II/2	Pampow
Kommando II/3	Rieth

17. Grenzbereitschaft A of Land Saxony numbered about 450 men. The unit had its headquarters in Bautzen and was organized and disposed as follows:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Kommandantur I</u>	Niesky
Kommando I/1	Priebus
Kommando I/2	Muskau
Kommando I/3	Sager
Kommando I/4	Rothenburg
<u>Kommandantur II</u>	Bernstadt
<u>Kommandantur III</u> (presumably dissolved)	Ebersbach

18. Grenzbereitschaft E of Land Saxony had its headquarters in Dresden. (2)
Grenzbereitschaft G of Land Saxony had its headquarters in Chemnitz. (3)

Grenzbereitschaften of Grenze Nord.

19. Grenze Nord was controlled by three Grenzbereitschaften, the 1st in Greifswald, the 2nd in Stralsund, and the 3rd in Bad Döberan. Each Grenzbereitschaft numbered 600 to 700 men and was equipped with infantry weapons and two or three small naval craft for coast guard duty.

Grenzbereitschaften of the Ring um Berlin.

20. The 1st Grenzbereitschaft in Teltow was commanded by VP Oberrat Fichtner, (fnu). VP Oberrat Tschichon, (fnu), was PK Chief. The unit numbered about 650 police and was organized and disposed as follows:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Kommandantur I</u>	Blankenfelde
Kommando I/1	Gross Ziehlen
Kommando I/2	Mahlow
Kommando I/3	Gross Neeren
Kommando I/4	Neinerdorf

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Kommandantur II

Kommando II/2	Ulienicke Bridge
Kommando II/3	Nedlitz Bridge
Kommando II/4	Lange Bridge, steamship pier

The 1st VP Grenzbrigade had checkpoints at the railroad stations of Mustermark, Bahlewitz, Drewitz, Gross Doeren, Koenigs-
wasterhausen, Mahlow, Seddin, and Lossen.

21. The 2nd VP Grenzbrigade in Falkensee numbered about 650 men and was organized and disposed as follows:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Kommandantur I</u>	Falkensee
<u>Kommandantur II</u>	Henningsdorf
Kommando II/1	Velten
Kommando II/2	Niedermuendorf
Kommando II/3	Granienburg
<u>Kommandantur III</u>	Ulienicke
Kommando III/1	Gross Ulienicke
Kommando III/2	Seeburg
Kommando III/3	Dallgow

The 2nd Grenzbrigade had a border checkpoint in Michendorf and checkpoints at the railroad stations of Velten, Rauen, Granienburg, and Potsdam.

22. The 3d VP Grenzbrigade in Lutzenberg was commanded by VP Oberst Bohn, (fau). VP Oberst Kollert, (fau), was PK Chef. The unit numbered about 650 men and was organized and disposed as follows:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Kommandantur I</u>	Schoeneiche
<u>Kommandantur II</u>	Summt
<u>Kommandantur III</u>	Schildow
<u>Kommandantur IV</u>	Lutzenberg
Kommando IV/1	Lindenborg
Kommando IV/2	Arnsfelde
Kommando IV/3	Bohnenitz
Kommando IV/4	Strausberg

The 3rd Grenzbrigade had a border checkpoint in Bahren and checkpoints at the railroad stations of Borna, Altlandsberg, Proders-
dorf-Strausberg, and Bornheim. (h)

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- (1) The Grenzbereitschaft is located in Wittenburg rather than in Gadebusch.
- (2) The Grenzbereitschaft controlling the border area south of Dresden is located in Pirna.
- (3) The Grenzbereitschaft controlling the border area south of Chemnitz is stationed in Plauen.
- (4) In general the report confirms previous information.

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